

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

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R 311804Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1953

AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

AMCONGEN PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

UNCLAS GEORGETOWN 1835

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GY, CU

SUBJECT: CUBA OPENS EMBASSY AT GEORGETOWN AND PROMISES TO ESTABLISH
MIXED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

REF: (A) GEORGETOWN 806 (B) GEORGETOWN 1636

1. ON OCTOBER 29, 1975, 32-YEAR OLD AFRO-CUBAN IVAN CAESAR
MARTINEZ MONTALVO OF CUBA PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS
TO PRESIDENT
ARTHUR CHUNG OF GUYANA, THUS BECOMING CUBA'S FIRST RESIDENT
AMBASSADOR TO GUYANA.

2. AFTER PRESENTING HIS CREDENTIALS, MARTINEZ ANNOUNCED THAT
GUYANA AND CUBA WOULD ESTABLISH A MIXED DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION TO
IDENTIFY FIELD IN WHICH THE TWO NATIONS COULD COOPERATE. HE
SPECIFIED THE AREAS OF CIVIL AVIATION AND FISHERIES WHERE COOPERA-
TION PRESENTLY EXISTS, AND SPOKE OF COLLABORATING THROUGH THE
COMMISSION IN AREAS OF PUBLIC HEALTH, MEDICAL ASSISTANCE,
CONSTRUCTION, MECHANIZATION OF THE SUGAR INDUSTRY, IMPROVEMENT
OF SUGAR FACTORIES, EDUCATION, SPORT AND CULTURE. THE COMMISSION
WILL

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HOLD ITS FIRST MEETING IN CUBA IN MID-NOVEMBER. MEMBERS OF THE

COMMISSION WILL DEPEND ON THE TOPIC TOBE DISCUSSED AT EACH
SESSION.7

3. IN HIS REPLY, PRESIDENT CHUNG SAID QUOTE OUR PEOPLE, LIKE
YOURS, HAVE WON SIGNIFICANT VICTORIES OVER THE ENEMIES OF FREEDOM
AND ARE NOW ENGAGED IN THE TASKS OF REVOLUTIONARY NATION-BUILDING.
WE IN GUYANA ARE CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF FRIENDLY
COUNTRIES WHEREAS CUBA WE CAN ATTAIN THE OBJECTIVES OF SOCIAL AND
ECONOMIC JUSTICSIFOR WHICH WE ARE STRIVING. END QUOTE, AND QUOTE
THE PEOPLE OF GUYANA AND THE PEOPLE OF CUBA HAVE HAD A LONG
HISTORY OF COOPERATION AT ALL LEVELS-- AT THE UNITED NATIONS,
WITHIN THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND, WITH INCREASING EMPHASIS
RECENTLY, AT A BILATERAL LEVEL. THIS RELATIONSHIP IS ONLY
POSSIBLE BECAUSE WE SHARE IN SO MANY WAYS SIMILAR IDEALS AND ASPIRA-
TIONS AND A RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S SOVEREIGNTY. END QUOTE.

4. COMMENT: CUBA IS THE THIRD COMMUNIST COUNTRY TO OPEN A MISSION
IN GUYANA, BUT IT WILL PROBABLY HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT
ON GUYANA'S
MARXIST-LENINST DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS DUE TO THE TWO COUNTRIES
CARIBBEAN GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION, COMMON MEMBERSHIP IN THE NON-ALIGNED
MOVEMENT AND RELATIVELY SIMILAR CULTURAL AND ETHNIC BACK-
GROUNDS. REFTELS INDICATE THAT THE PROCESS OF CLOSE APPROXIMATION,
COOPERATION ANDMODELING A JSR CUBA IS ALREADY WELL UNDERWAY.
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